5 April 2017

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United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

New York, 27-31 March and 15 June-7 July 2017

Agenda item 8 (b)

General exchange of views: general exchange of views on all matters

Topic 1. Principles and objectives and preambular elements

Submitted by Colombia

Preamble

Recalling the Declaration of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated, inter alia, that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations, and that all States have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations, (preamble, General Assembly resolution 71/258)

Reaffirming the role and functions of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Welcoming the efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament and the support of the Secretary-General for such efforts, and recalling in this regard the Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Recalling that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, was negotiated considering the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war and to take measures to safeguard the security of peoples, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Recalling also the obligations of States parties to the Treaty and their commitments as reflected in the outcome documents of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

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Nuclear Weapons, and of the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Recognizing that the current international climate makes increased political attention to disarmament and non-proliferation issues, the promotion of multilateral disarmament and the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons all the more urgent, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Cognizant of the fact that the risk of nuclear weapons use with their unacceptable consequences can only be avoided when all nuclear weapons have been eliminated, (Humanitarian Pledge)

Emphasizing that the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and the risks associated with nuclear weapons concern the security of all humanity and that all States share the responsibility to prevent any use of nuclear weapons, (Humanitarian Pledge)

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013 pursuant to its resolution 67/39 of 3 December 2012, which highlighted the wish of the international community for progress in this field, and noting its resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013 as a follow-up to this meeting, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Welcoming also the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, submitted pursuant to its resolution 67/56 and referenced in its resolution 68/46, and noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 68/46, containing the views of Member States on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including the steps that Member States have already taken to that end, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Welcoming further the efforts by all Member States, international organizations and civil society to continue to enrich the discussions on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the United Nations bodies in which disarmament and peace and security are addressed, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Bearing in mind that a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons would be an important contribution towards comprehensive nuclear disarmament, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Bearing in mind also that additional measures, both practical and legally binding, for the irreversible, verifiable and transparent destruction of nuclear

weapons would be needed in order to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness, and welcoming the participation of all Member States in the efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Emphasizing the importance and urgency of securing substantive progress on priority nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, (preamble, resolution 71/258)

Determined, for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, (based on preamble, Chemical Weapons Convention)

Bearing in mind that, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 71/258, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, (based on paragraph 8, resolution 71/258)

Recalling that, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 71/258, the General Assembly called upon States participating in the conference to make their best endeavours to conclude as soon as possible a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, (based on paragraph 12, resolution 71/258)

Emphasizing the desirability of achieving universal adherence to this Treaty, (preamble, Arms Trade Treaty)

Determined to act in accordance with the following principles, (preamble, Arms Trade Treaty)

Principles

- The settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered in accordance with Article 2 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations; (principles, Arms Trade Treaty)
- Respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law in accordance with, inter alia, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and respecting and ensuring respect for human rights in accordance with, inter alia, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (principles, Arms Trade Treaty)
- The commitment to pursuing nuclear disarmament in accordance with the provisions of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; (based on article VI, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)
- Strengthening the disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, including the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and ensuring that under no circumstances shall the integrity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons be directly or indirectly affected;

- The importance of addressing issues related to nuclear weapons in a comprehensive, inclusive, interactive and constructive manner; (based on paragraph 4, resolution 71/258)

Objectives

- Contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability; (based on article 1, Arms Trade Treaty)
- Achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons; (based on paragraph 4, resolution 71/258)
- Promoting confidence-building measures among States as a means of creating conditions that facilitate the total elimination of nuclear weapons.